

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding office action mailed November 30, 2005 Applicant has amended the claims of the application by canceling claims 1-22 and adding new claims 23-33.

Applicant's invention is substantially different from the applied references of Liberty and Lyon. The insertion and removal mechanism of the claimed invention of claim 23 works with the optical component to insert and remove that component from a retainer housing mounted to a faceplate. Liberty does not operate in the same manner as applicant's invention. In Liberty, the optical component cannot be removed from the housing without dismantling the housing. Thus, Liberty cannot provide the advantage of the claimed invention to allow ease of insertion and removal of optical components. Lyon has been applied primarily to show various angular relationships and does not supply the missing teachings of Liberty.

The combination of Liberty and AAPA is likewise deficient. At the outset, there is no reasonable basis for combining Liberty and AAPA since the module of AAPA having spring retainers could not cooperate with the housing of Liberty since the module is completely inside the housing, thus rendering spring retainers useless. Nor could the module of Liberty be used in the faceplate of Liberty without the housing of Liberty since Liberty does not teach the use of spring retainers. Therefore any combination of Liberty and AAPA to teach the use of spring retainers would not only be unobvious but also would not be operative. Further, Liberty does not teach an insertion/ removal mechanism as now claimed as noted above.

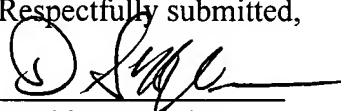
It is believed that each of the claims now pending in the application define patentable subject matter over the references of record. Hence, it is asserted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and it is requested that the application be issued without delay.

It is believed that no additional fees are presently due. However, should that determination be incorrect, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Patent Office officials to debit Deposit Account No. 50-0562 to satisfy any and all fees which may be due.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Date: 2/24/06

Respectfully submitted,



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